The member submitted that the registry should be made to the natives of the land.

DEWAN : I will come and inspect it.

7. Land registry in Devicolam.

MR. N. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Devicolam taluk*) pointed out how with the development of means of communication, Devicolam had begun to attract the attention of people elsewhere in the State and how the question of registry of lands in the Division had assumed an important aspect. He proposed to deal with the question on the present occasion under three heads *viz.*, (1) registry of lands in the Pallivasal side, (2) relaxation of the prohibition order concerning cardamom areas, and (3) permanent registry of lands in Devicolam.

As regards the first point, he stated that there were about 25,000 acres of unregistered land on either side of the new Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road. This area was noted for its fertility, the soil being suited not only for the cultivation of cardamom but also of a variety of other products. It would be a very wise step if this vast area was divided into small blocks and registered to native cultivators.

In regard to the second subject, the member said that it was by an order dated the 22nd October 1920 that Government had prohibited the further registry of lands in the so-called cardamom area. But the *raison d'etre* of that order had long ago disappeared. In 1920 the cultivators of the cardamom lands were mainly natives of the adjoining British districts. The cultivation of cardamom was itself losing ground at the time on account of the prevalance of a pest, which attacked the plants. Neither of these conditions, however, held good at the present time. There were many Travancoreans now eager to get lands in the cardamom area. As for the pest, it had disappeared completely. To add to this, the price of cardamom had gone very high ranging from Rupees 40 to Rupees 50 per tulam. Having regard to these circumstances, the prohibition order should be relaxed as early as practicable and cardamom lands should be thrown open for registry. It should at the same time be declared that these lands should not be registered to non-Travancoreans. The *taravila* might also be fixed at Rs. 25 per acre, the rate at which cardamom lands were registered before the prohibition order.

In regard to the third question, *viz.*, permanent assignment of lands in Devicolam, the member said that lands in Devicolam were given only on annual *Kuthakapattom* lease. The precarious nature of this tenure made the occupants reluctant to make any exertions for the improvement of the lands. Some of the permanent residents in the place, such as vakils, found it extremely difficult to secure permanent abodes. In order to obviate these difficulties the member suggested that the *Kuthakapattom* lands now in the occupation of different persons might be registered to them on permanent tenure.

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DEWAN'S REPLY. Mr. Kochukrishna Pillai, in regard to your first point, the lands alongside the new Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road will first be surveyed and plotted and then made available for registry at suitable prices. This cannot be done until the Pallivasal-Neriamanagalam road is approaching completion.

You next refer to the order of prohibition against registry of cardamom lands. There is no such order of prohibition. It is in reality an order of reservation and lands are being reserved for registry until such time as communications are complete traversing the cardamom country and having an outlet on the Travancore side. When the programme of road construction is carried through—it should not be very long, now that two years have gone by—all those lands in due course will be made available for registry, on such terms as would be suitable.

Then you dwelt upon the question of reservation of lands exclusively for Travancoreans. I regret it is not possible for Government to follow that course if for no other reason than that on two separate occasions the Legislative Council by a large majority rejected any such idea of not selling lands to what you call foreigners.

Then you speak of the unlimited extent of land at the disposal of Government in Devicolam Division for assignment to all and sundry. As a matter of fact, there are only 175 acres of Government land at Devicolam. Much of this land is required for Government offices and officers. As the town grows, the needs of Government must inevitably grow. Therefore if those lands are alienated permanently, Government will find themselves in a difficult position, having no land on which to place their buildings. It is because of this provision for the future that at present all Government lands are given on *kuthagapattom* lease so that the lands can again be made available for Government. In view of the very limited area available and in view of the future needs of Government, I am afraid it is impossible to register these outright to the class of persons you indicate.

8. Concessions to the Vilakkitala Nayars in the matter of registry of Puduval lands.

MR. P. N. APPAVU VAIDYAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Vilakkitalavanmars were a very poor community. Many of them owned not even a cent of land on which they could build a hut. But there were thousands of acres of Sirkar lands in the country which had all been registered to foreigners. During the time of the late Dewan Sir P. Rajagopalachari, some lands were registered on concessional rates to some depressed communities. The same concessions were shown to ex-service men who had taken part in the Great War. But now only rich men and men of influence could get Sirkar lands. The Vilakkitalavanmars were, however, mostly poor people, following their traditional occupation. They had neither the money nor the influence to compete with other communities. According to the last census there was a total population of 27,276 Vilakkitalavanmars in the country, of whom 107 alone enjoyed income from land. All the remaining 27,169

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